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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,535	07/11/2003	Tavis D. Schriefer	175-0002US	7506

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WONG, CABELLO, LUTSCH, RUTHERFORD & BRUCCULERI,  
P.C.  
20333 SH 249  
SUITE 600  
HOUSTON, TX 77070

EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/619,535

Applicant(s)

SCHRIEFER, TAVIS D.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 44-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 44, 45, 48, 50 and 51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 46, 47 and 49 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. Applicant's Amendment filed January 16, 2006, in which Claims 1-5 and 7-43 have been cancelled, has been placed of record in the file.
2. The indicated allowability of claims 6 and 44-51 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Hefner (U.S. Patent No. 5,186,659). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 6, 44-45, 48 and 50-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hefner (U.S. Patent No. 5,186,659). With regard to Claim 1, Hefner (Figs. 5-7) discloses a connector comprising: a first connector head (12) having an axis; a second connector head (first 19); a connection mechanism (13, 22) coupling the first connector head and the second connector head, wherein the connection mechanism is adapted to limit the motion of the second connector head in a first plane substantially

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coincident with the axis and in a second plane substantially orthogonal to the axis; and a third connector head (second 19) coupled to the connection mechanism, the connection mechanism adapted to limit motion of the third connector head to the first and second planes, wherein the second and third connector heads are adapted to move independent of each other.

With regard to Claim 44, Hefner (Figs. 5-7) discloses the connection mechanism being further adapted to retain the second connector head in a specified position in the first plane and further adapted to retain the second connector head in another specified position in the second plane.

With regard to Claim 45, Hefner (Figs. 5-7) discloses the connection mechanism further adapted to retain the third connector head in a specified position in the first plane and further adapted to retain the third connector head in another specified position in the second plane.

With regard to Claim 48, Hefner (Figs. 5-7) discloses at least one of the connector heads comprising a cable (Fig. 7).

With regard to Claim 50, Hefner (Figs. 5-7) discloses the first connector head comprising different connector head styles from at least one of the second and third connector heads.

With regard to Claim 51, Hefner (Figs. 5-7) discloses the connection mechanism is further adapted to comprise means (13) for implementing a hub function between the first connector head and the second and third connector heads.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 46-47 and 49 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, the device slot comprising a device slot selected from the group consisting of Universal Serial Bus, FireWire, BlueTooth, video, RS232 and memory device slots, the electronic device comprising a device selected from the group consisting of Universal Serial Bus, FireWire, BlueTooth, video, RS232 and memory devices, the first connector head being fixedly coupled to an electronic device, the portable electronic device is selected from the group consisting of personal digital assistant, telephone, camera and personal computer electronic devices and in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base and intermediate claims.

***Conclusion***

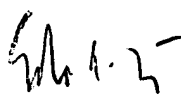
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax

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phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Edwin A. Leon  
AU 2833

EAL  
April 2, 2006



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PRIMARY EXAM